

## CITY OF LANCASTER.



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31st Dec.  
1937.



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TO THE MAYOR AND  
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

MR. MAYOR, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Article 17 (5) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926, I beg to present to you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health of Lancaster.

This Report is drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1650 of the Ministry of Health.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. D. BUCHANAN.

7th June, 1938.

## Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health ( City and Port ), School Medical Officer,  
and Medical Superintendent of Smallpox Hospital:

J. D. BUCHANAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical  
Officer:

Miss R. T. RANKIN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Port Sanitary Inspector, Food Inspector  
and Inspector of Factories and Workshops and Canal Boats:

H. SCHOLEFIELD, *ab*

Sanitary Inspectors ( General, District and Port ):

W. W. JACKSON *abc*

C. R. VARCOE *ab*

Health Visitors ( who also act as School Nurses ):

Mrs. D. SMITH ( Superintendent ) *de*

Miss E. AVEYARD *def*

Miss G. M. LLOYD *def*

Miss M. THOMPSON *fg*

Miss L. M. WINDER *def*

Veterinary Inspector and Meat Inspector ( part-time ):

G. C. WEBSTER, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M.

Public Analyst ( part-time ):

HARRI HEAP, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Clerical Staff:

H. H. KELLETT ( Chief Clerk ).

J. V. SMITH ( Clerk. )

T. E. HODGSON ( Junior Clerk. ) ( to May ).

T. ALDREN ( Junior Clerk ) ( from June ).

*a*—Sanitary Inspector's Certificate of R.S.I. or Joint Board.

*b*—Certificate for Meat Inspection.

*c*—Certificate for Sanitary Science.

*d*—General Trained Nurse.

*e*—C.M.B.

*f*—Health Visitor's Certificate.

*g*—Children's Nurse.



## A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area ( in Acres )	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,036
Population ( Registrar-General's Estimate ), Mid-year, 1937							47,220
Number of Inhabited Houses ( end of 1937 ) according to							
Rate Books	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12,543
Rateable Value.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£298,618
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£1,193

Included in the population figure of 47,220 are nearly 4,000 patients in the County Mental Hospital and the Royal Albert Institution.

The population of the area as revealed by the Census of 26-27 April, 1931, was 43,396, compared with 41,410 in the year 1911, and 40,212 in 1921.

### Industries and Occupations.

The chief manufactures of the town are those of linoleum, oilcloth, etc. Cotton weaving, furniture making, artificial silk works and dye works are other industries which provide employment for considerable numbers.

### Unemployment.

The number of persons wholly unemployed, which averaged 1035 in the year 1936, fell gradually to about 700 during the first nine months of 1937.

There was also a decrease in the number of temporary stoppages during the first half of the year.

Beginning in October, however, unemployment increased in volume owing to a falling-off in employment in the staple industries of Linoleum, Table Baize and Artificial Silk manufacture.

The number of marriages registered in 1937 was 463, or twenty less than in 1936. The average number of marriages for the five years prior to 1937 was 477, annually.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of 1937.

		Total	Males	Females.
Live Births	{ Legitimate .....	627 .....	308 .....	319
	{ Illegitimate:.....	32 .....	16 .....	<del>48</del> 16
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,				13.9
Still Births	.....	29 .....	13 .....	16
Rate per 1,000 total ( live and still ) Births, 42.				
Deaths .....	.....	591 .....	298 .....	293
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population,				12.3
Deaths from Puerperal causes:—				

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total ( live and still ) births.
Puerperal Sepsis .....	3	4.36
Other Puerperal causes .....	1	1.45
Total.....	4	5.81

### Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	.....	66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	.....	65
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	93
Deaths from Cancer ( all ages )	.....	71
Deaths from Measles ( all ages )	.....	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough ( all ages ).....	.....	8
Deaths from Diarrhoea ( under two years of age )	.....	3

### Case Rates of Infectious Diseases ( per 1,000 civilian population ).

	England and Wales	Lancaster
Scarlet Fever .....	2.33	3.52
Diphtheria .....	1.49	1.16
Enteric Fever .....	0.05	0.06

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population.				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births
	Live birth-rate	Crude death-rate	Death-rate from tuberculosis of respiratory system.	Death-rate from Cancer.	Per 1000 live births	Per 1000 total (live and still) births	
Population, 47,220.							
Mean of 5 years, 1932—1936	14.6	12.1	0.50	1.31	3.60	3.60	63
Year—1936.....	15.2	12.4	0.44	1.57	2.79	2.64	61
1937.....	13.9	12.5 *	0.46	1.50	6.06	5.81	66
Increase or decrease in 1937							
on 5 years' average, 1932—1936	—0.7	+0.4	—0.04	+0.19	+2.45	+2.37	+3
on Previous year	—1.3	+0.1	+0.02	—0.07	+3.27	+3.17	+5

\*—Applying the Areal Comparability Factor of 0.99 to 12.5 ( the crude death rate ) we get 12.3 i.e. the adjusted death rate.

Statistics ( Supplied by the Registrar- General ).

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.
All Causes .....	298	293
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.....	—	—
2 Measles .....	1	—
3 Scarlet Fever .....	—	1
4 Whooping Cough.....	5	3
5 Diphtheria.....	—	3
6 Influenza .....	6	17
7 Encephalitis Lethargica .....	4	1
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	1
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System .....	11	11
10 Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	2	3
11 Syphilis .....	—	—
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis .....	1	—
13 Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	28	43
14 Diabetes .....	5	2
15 Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ....	26	22
16 Heart Diseases .....	73	66
17 Aneurysm .....	—	—
18 Other Circulatory Diseases .....	21	20
19 Bronchitis .....	10	9
20 Pneumonia ( all forms ) .....	13	12
21 Other Respiratory Diseases .....	3	1
22 Peptic Ulcer .....	1	3
23 Diarrhoea, etc. ( under 2 years ) .....	1	2
24 Appendicitis .....	1	2
25 Cirrhosis of Liver.....	3	1
26 Other Diseases of the Liver, etc.....	1	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	6
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis .....	14	10
29 Puerperal Sepsis .....	—	3
30 Other Puerperal Causes .....	—	1
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	9	13
32 Senility .....	6	9
33 Suicide .....	8	—
34 Other Violence .....	16	6
35 Other defined diseases .....	24	20
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown .....	1	1



Statistics ( Supplied by the Registrar General )—( Continued ).

Cause of Death.	Males	Females
Special Causes( included in No.35 above ):—		
Small Pox.....	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
Polio-encephalitis.....	—	—
Deaths of infants under 1 year:—		
Total .....	23	21
Legitimate.....	20	21
Illegitimate .....	3	—
Live Births:—		
Total .....	324	335
Legitimate.....	308	319
Illegitimate .....	16	16
Still Births:—		
Total .....	13	16
Legitimate.....	13	15
Illegitimate .....	—	1
Population ( Estimated ) .....	47,220	

The total number of deaths was 591, as compared with 586 for the year 1936.

Amongst the infectious diseases there were three deaths from Diphtheria and one from Scarlet Fever. Measles was the cause of one death only, whilst Whooping Cough accounted for eight—an unusually large number. Deaths from Influenza numbered twenty three, equal to the total for the two previous years.

The number of deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage increased from thirty six- to forty-eight. Deaths from Pnuemonia fell from thirty-nine to twenty-five. In twelve cases the cause of death was uncertified, but a certificate was granted by the Coroner who held twenty-three inquests in 1937.

Thirty-two per cent. of the total deaths, i.e. 189 out of 591, occurred in Hospitals or Institutions.

The natural increase in population (the excess of births over deaths) was 68, as compared with 130 in the previous year and an average of 113 for the five years, 1931 to 1935.

No definite figures are available for *Sickness* or *Invalidity* apart from the notifications of Infectious Diseases, particulars of which are given in the appropriate section of this Report.

There was a mild epidemic of Influenza in the spring, although during the year there was a general diminution in the incidence of both notifiable and non-notifiable infectious diseases compared with the previous year.

Deaths in Institutions.					
<i>Name of Institution.</i>					<i>Number of Deaths</i>
Public Assistance Institution, Lancaster	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Royal Lancaster Infirmary	.....	.....	.....	.....	99
County Mental Hospital, Lancaster.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Nazareth House, Lancaster	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Slyne Road Isolation Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Slyne Road Pulmonary Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Westhaven Nursing Home	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Outside Institutions and Hospitals	.....	.....	.....	.....	14

Comparative Statement of Vital Statistics of certain towns of  
for the year 1937.

Name of Town.	Birth Rate	Death Rate (adjusted) .	Infant Mortality Rate.
Accrington .....	10.0	15.6	75
Chorley .....	13.7	16.1	60
Crosby .....	15.0	13.0	56
Darwen .....	11.3	16.7	54
Eccles .....	14.7	14.4	65
Farnworth .....	12.6	14.1	85
Heywood.....	12.8	15.5	97
LANCASTER .....	13.9	12.3	66
Leigh .....	13.5	17.1	70
Lytham-St. Annes .....	8.3	13.2	65
Middleton .....	13.2	12.9	51
Nelson .....	9.1	14.6	30
Nelson .....	9.1	14.6	30
Stretford .....	12.7	13.4	47
Swinton and Pendelbury .....	13.9	12.2	16

B.—General Provision of Health Services  
for the Area.

Particulars of the Public Health Officers of the Authority are given on page 6 of this Report.

Detailed information regarding the services provided in the area has been given in previous Annual Reports.

Developments during the year included the appointment of an Area Obstetrical Officer, the establishment, as from the middle of January, of an ante-natal clinic at Ryelands House for the Skerton Area, and the provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers and for children under school age, from the first of February.

Negotiations are progressing with the Royal Lancaster Infirmary for improving and extending the Maternity Services for the area, and the erection of a new Maternity Block adjacent to the Infirmary has been approved in principle.

Twenty six additional beds are being provided at the Isolation Hospital for the District.

One Nursing Home, (Ayr Street,) was closed at the end of the year, leaving only one now on the register, in addition to the Infirmary (Exempted).

## C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

**Water.**—Extensions and improvements were made to the mechanical filtration plants at Scotforth and Langthwaite which are calculated to improve the appearance of the water and render it less plumbo-solvent. Measures were also taken to ensure a more scientific treatment of the raw water and to avoid marked fluctuations in its pH value.

A threatened shortage of supply towards the end of the year led to the use again of the 21 inch “emergency” pipe at Damas Ghyll, and as the quality of the water collected by this pipe does not reach the high standard of the rest of the supply, it was decided to chlorinate it. At the same time it was also decided to lay an additional pipe (21 inch) from Grizedale Tank to the new reservoir at Langthwaite.

During the year three samples were bacteriologically and chemically examined; the results of the analyses are given at the end of this Report..

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—In July, 1937, the new intercepting sewer on the Lancaster side of the Lune was brought into full action and the opportunity was taken to pick up on its way the sewage from Aldcliffe village.

Complaints were received in respect of overflow from sewers in the Scotforth and Skerton districts, and steps are being taken to improve the arrangements in these districts.



**Rivers and Streams.**—Steps were taken to deal with the pollution of the Newlands Beck, a tributary of Burrow Beck. In regard to Burrow Beck itself, complaints were again received of overflow from the adjoining sewer, and the Highways Committee is considering remedial measures.

Since the intercepting sewer was commissioned in July, the Lune has become a cleaner river in its upper tidal part.

**Closet Accommodation.**—The number of fresh water Closets in the area is approximately 16,000. The number of pail closets remains at 29, and of privy middens at 10.

**Public Cleansing.**—There are no extensions or improvements to record in the arrangements for public cleansing, which remain as before.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Dwelling houses:—

					<i>Inspections. Re-inspections</i>	
Inspected on Complaint	.....	.....	.....	324	.....	508
Re Infectious Diseases	.....	.....	.....	141	.....	21
Housing Acts	.....	.....	.....	132	.....	69
Routine Inspections	.....	.....	.....	48	.....	—
Factories	.....	.....	.....	152	.....	—
Workshops	.....	.....	.....	147	.....	—
Workplaces, other than Outworkers			.....	29	.....	—
Offensive Trades	.....	.....	.....	169	.....	—
Common Lodging Houses	.....	.....	.....	97	.....	—
Drains	.....	.....	.....	85	.....	89
Stable Premises and Garages	.....	.....	.....	46	.....	—
Smoke Observations	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	—

Markets:—

Fish, Retail .....	.....	.....	60	.....	—
,, Wholesale .....	.....	.....	53	.....	—
Cattle.....	.....	.....	52	.....	—
General .....	.....	.....	97	.....	—
Unsound Food .....	.....	.....	31	.....	—
Overcrowding.....	.....	.....	140	.....	—

Shops:—

Fish .....	114	—
Fried Fish .....	39	—
Provision .....	53	—
Meat.....	588	—
Ice Cream .....	3	—
Slaughterhouses .....	562	—
Cowsheds and Dairies.....	73	—
Milk Shops .....	90	—
Canal Boats .....	55	—
Public Urinals.....	43	—
Houses Let-in-Lodgings .....	23	—
Port Inspections .....	15	—
Flooded Cellars .....	66	—
Miscellaneous .....	734	—

Sanitary Improvements Effected.

Houses dealt with:—

	<i>Public Health</i>	
	<i>Acts.</i>	<i>Housing.</i>
Lighting and ventilation improved.....	—	45
Roofs reconstructed or repaired .....	—	35
Floors repaired or relaid .....	—	8
Fireplaces repaired or provided .....	—	18
Staircases repaired .....	—	3
Walls and Chimneys pointed and repaired .....	—	18
Repairs and renewals to W.C. accommodation .....	49	—
Bins replaced .....	42	—
Ashpits demolished and replaced by bins.....	5 (9bins)	—
New sinks or other sanitary fittings .....	15	—
Yard and lobby pavements repaired .....	—	9
Drains repaired or renewed.....	49	—
Gutters and downspouts repaired or renewed .....	—	60
Provided with sufficient water supply .....	17	—
Water Services repaired .....	26	—
Plasterwork .....	—	22

Accumulations removed	.....	.....	.....	7	.....	—
Drains tested.....	.....	.....	.....	84	.....	—
General nuisances	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	28
Referred to other departments:—						
Surveyor's Department	.....	.....	.....	—	.....	40
Water	.....	.....	.....	—	.....	29
Gas	.....	.....	.....	—	.....	3

### Notices Served in 1937.

Under the Public Health Acts	.....	{	Preliminary	.....	134
			Statutory	.....	35
Housing Acts	.....		Preliminary	.....	112
			Statutory	.....	43

### Notices Outstanding at the end of the Year

Preliminary	.....	.....	.....	21
Statutory	.....	.....	.....	9

**Shops.**—Under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934, additional water closets were provided in connection with six shops.

No action was taken in regard to ventilation and temperature of shops.

**Smoke Abatement.**—During the year three firms employed experts to advise on their boiler plants. One of these firms put down a new plant, with resulting diminution in smoke emission. Action is being taken by the other two firms.

There would have been less nuisance during 1937 from smoke from industrial chimneys had some firms been able to get the class of fuel they required. For the most part the industrialists of Lancaster are public-spirited, and are anxious to keep the atmosphere reasonably clean, so far as it depends on themselves.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—There are no privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public in the area. The swimming baths in Cable Street, owned and managed by the

Corporation, continued in general use. Analysis of the water showed a satisfactory bacteriological result.

**Eradication of Bed-bugs.**—The number of council houses found to be infested during the year was 61, and the number of other houses 51.

The 61 council houses were disinfested by fumigation with HCN gas (Zyklon B.). The 51 other houses were sprayed with an insecticide of local manufacture.

A further 73 houses in clearance areas, were fumigated with HCN gas prior to demolition.

The belongings of tenants about to be removed to council houses are taken in vans to the old Isolation Hospital and are there treated with HCN gas.

The work of disinfection by means of HCN gas was carried out by the local Authority, two Sanitary Inspectors having been trained for the purpose.

**Schools.**—The Sanitary condition and water supply of the schools in the area are satisfactory. The recommendations of the official memorandum on Closure of and Exclusion from School, 1927, are followed in the area. No schools were closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

D.—Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under			
(b) .....	.....	.....	517
(1) By the Local Authority	.....	.....	110
(2) By other Local Authorities	.....	.....	—
(3) By other bodies and persons	.....	.....	407
(b) With state assistance under the Housing Acts:—			
(1) By the Local Authority	.....	.....	110
(2) By other bodies or persons	.....	.....	—



**1.—Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	625
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	712
(2) (a) Number of houses (included under sub-head(1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 .....	396
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	396
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	249
(4) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those under the proceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	276

**2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	227
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers.**

**A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	43
(2) Number of dwelling houses-which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	45
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....	—

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses-in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	35
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners .....	33

( b ) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the  
Housing Act, 1936:—

( 1 ) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	.....	.....	.....	4
( 2 ) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur- suance of Demolition Orders .....	.....	.....	.....	—

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act,  
1936:—

( 1 ) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
( 2 ) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

4.—Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

( a ) ( 1 ) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	91
( 2 ) Number of families dwelling therein .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	108
( 3 ) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	654
( b ) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	19
( c ) ( 1 ) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	109
( 2 ) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	758
( d ) No cases were discovered in which dwelling-houses again became overcrowded after steps had been taken for the abatement of overcrowding.					

No houses have yet been erected by the Corporation specifically to abate overcrowding.

Inability to pay the rents of available houses is a chief cause of overcrowding. Houses with four or more bedrooms are standing

empty because the rent is beyond the means of large families with small incomes.

**Clearance Areas:**—During the year 17 areas, comprising 247 houses, were represented for clearance, and the Inquiry in respect of these was held in December.

Ten areas comprising 71 houses, were cleared, and 110 houses were erected by the Corporation under the 1930 Act.

## E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### (a) Milk Supply

There are 21 dairy farms in the area. These, as well as other dairies and milk shops, are regularly inspected. Before licences are issued for the sale of milk the applicants are interviewed and instructed, and their premises inspected. From time to time leaflets giving information on the production of clean milk are distributed.

One hundred and fifty samples of milk were examined for bacterial content. The *Bacillus Coli* was present in 114 samples:—In 33 samples it was present in 1 c.c., in 26 samples in 0.1 c.c., in 24 samples in 0.01 c.c., and in 31 samples it was present even in 0.001 c.c.

The *bacterial count* was under 10,000 per 1 c.c. in 55 of the 150 samples, it was between 10,000 and 30,000 in 43 samples, it was between 30,000 and 200,000 in 37 samples, and in the remaining 15 samples it was over 200,000 per 1 c.c.

These figures compare unfavourably with those for the previous year.

One hundred and sixty samples of milk were examined for *Tubercle Bacilli*, and in eight cases the milk was found to be infected. (In the year 1936 tubercle bacilli were found in seven of the forty samples taken).

Six samples of milk sold under a Special Designation were examined, and four were reported to be satisfactory.

Although there are twenty one-dairy farms in the area, only five milk producers are accredited, and the tuberculin tested milk retailed in the area is produced outside the area.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, 11 cows were notified by the owners. These were found to be tubercular and were slaughtered. Following the notifications, 163 cows were inspected by the Veterinary Officer.

#### *(b) Meat and Other Foods.*

The bulk of the Senior Sanitary Inspector's time is absorbed in the supervision of the food supply, in the inspection of meat at the public slaughter house, the market stalls, shops and places where food is prepared.

The following table shows the number of animals slaughtered and inspected at the slaughter house during the year:—



Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

		Cattle (exclud- ing Cows )	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
	Number Killed	2762	260	356	14,962	4495
	Number inspected	2762	260	356	14,962	4495
All diseases except Tuberculosis	Whole Carcase Condemned	—	1	1	—	1
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	—	—	162	123
	Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	1.52	0.38	0.28	1.08	2.74
Tuberculosis only	Whole Carcases Condemned	2	5	—	—	1
	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—
	Percentage of number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis	0.07	2.31	—	—	0.02

## UN SOUND FOOD CONDEMNED IN 1937.

Description	Approximate Weight Destroyed.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Cattle Tubercular :— .....	2	16	1	26
Other Diseases.....	1	2	0	26
Pigs:—Tubercular .....	0	1	3	24
Other Diseases .....	0	8	1	12
Sheep :—Flukes .....	0	3	3	24
Other Diseases .....	0	0	1	4
Beef:—( Imported ) Chilled .....	0	6	2	26
Frozen.....	0	0	1	6
Pork ( Imported ) Frozen .....	0	0	0	9½
Lamb ( Tinned Livers ) .....	0	0	0	20
Brawn .....	0	0	2	16
Sausages ( Pork ) .....	0	0	1	2
Ducks .....	0	0	0	10
Cod .....	0	1	1	24
Haddock ( Wet Fish ) .....	0	2	3	13
Herrings .....	0	0	2	16
Kippers.....	0	2	0	1
Plaice .....	0	0	1	0
Salmon.....	0	0	0	2
Apples .....	0	4	2	16
Pears .....	0	0	2	24
Plums .....	0	0	1	0
Strawberries .....	0	0	1	4
Total.....	5	14	2	25½

### ( c ) Adulteration, etc.

Sixteen samples were examined under the Public Health ( Condensed Milk ) Regulations, and were found satisfactory. Under the Food and Drugs ( Adulteration ) Act, 1928, 133 samples were submitted for analysis. These comprised 75 samples of milk, 46 of butter, and 12 of cream.

The Public Analyst reported against six of the milk samples. These are numbered 13, 18, 27, 52, 75 and 85 in the following statement, which also shews the result of subsequent sampling:—

No. of Sample	(Date 1937).	Fat.	Solids not Fat
13	23rd Feby.	2.95	8.32
29	9th March	3.65	8.66
18	23rd Feby.	3.20	8.42
30	9th March	3.20	8.52
27	9th March	2.95	8.77
37	13th April	4.10	8.96
52	25th May	2.70	8.98
62	22nd June	3.00	9.29
75	6th July	3.30	8.43
88	10th August	3.15	8.77
85	10th August	2.50	8.59
97	16th August	3.05	9.22

The average percentage of fat in the total 75 samples of milk was 3.70, and of non fatty-solids, 9.05. In none of them was any preservative found.

#### (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This work, when required to be done, is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University.

#### (e) Nutrition.

Information as to foods and food values was given at the various school clinics and child welfare centres, also in schools and homes visited.

Lectures were given by the medical staff, and a special film dealing with "Nutrition" was shown to the public by the Gas Department. Special articles on the subject appeared in the local press.

#### (f) Shell fish (Molluscan).

The mussel-beds in the Lune estuary are under the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority, and are liable to pollution.

The Lancaster ( Shell-fish ) Regulations, 1918, prohibit the sale and distribution for human consumption of mussels or other shell-fish taken from within the Port Sanitary District which have not been satisfactorily cleansed or sterilized.

No measures have been taken for the cleansing or sterilizing of the mussels from these layings, and so far as can be ascertained they are not now marketed for human consumption.

Shell-fish ( mussels ) marketed in the area are said to be derived from Silloth ( Cumberland ) layings.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1937.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.											Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths		
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			Over 65	Total
Scarlet Fever .....	1	7	9	5	12	82	30	4	12	2	2	—	166	111	1
Diphtheria .....	—	2	3	6	1	21	12	3	7	—	—	—	55	52	3
Enteric Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	2 <sup>a</sup>	—
Pneumonia .....	4	2	—	2	3	4	2	5	10	11	24	9	76	30 <sup>b</sup>	25
Puerperal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10	3	—	—	16	11	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Dysentery .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1 <sup>c</sup>	—
Encephalitis Lethargica .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Erysipelas .....	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	9	8	15	3	41	18 <sup>d</sup>	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals .....	8	11	12	14	16	110	49	16	49	25	41	12	363	228	38

NOTIFIED :—

(a)—1 from County Mental Hospital.

(b)—2 from Royal Lancaster Infirmary.

19 from County Mental Hospital.

3 from Royal Albert Institution.

(c)—1 from Royal Albert Institution.

(d)—2 from Royal Albert Institution.

1 from Royal Infirmary.

10 from County Mental Hospital



## F.—Infectious Diseases.

**Scarlet Fever.**—One hundred and sixty-six cases were notified, compared with 182 in the previous year, and 320 in the year 1935.

The disease was again mild in character, and only one case ended fatally.

One hundred and eleven cases, equal to 67 per cent, were removed to hospital.

It was noticed in several instances that there were other members in the household affected suffering from sore throat without a rash. In one case the mother of the patient had erysipelas.

**Diphtheria.**—There were 55 cases of diphtheria notified, the lowest number since 1931. Fifty-two cases were removed to hospital, and three deaths were due to the disease. Four cases were notified from Institutions, but none from Institutions where immunisation is practiced. Five cases occurred in one house, and three cases in each of two others. Two cases were notified from each of six houses. As in previous years, a number of carriers, mostly nasal, were discovered at the School Clinic.

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria in 1937 was 101, including 81 in Institutions.

**Enteric Fever.**—There were two cases of Enteric Fever, one of which occurred in an Institution. The source of infection could not be definitely traced in the other case, although suspicion pointed to the Lune. (A warning notice against bathing in the river was put up adjacent to the main outfall sewer at Stodday).

**Dysentery.**—One Case (Flexner Y) was notified from <sup>an</sup>the institution.

**Pneumonia.**—Seventy-six cases were notified, of which 32 were Influenzal. Twenty four cases occurred in hospital or Institution and six other cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Deaths from Pneumonia totaled 25.

**Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.**—One case of P. Fever and sixteen cases of P. Pyrexia were notified. Twelve cases were treated in hospital. There were four deaths associated with childbirth three from puerperal sepsis and one from other causes. Compared with the previous year, the Maternal Mortality rate was doubled.

**Non-notifiable Diseases.**—During the year there were reported from the elementary schools 38 cases of Measles, 249 cases of Chicken-pox, 79 cases of Whooping Cough, and 14 cases of Mumps. The homes of the children were visited by the School Nurses.

**Hospital Accommodation.**—The existing accommodation of 56 beds for cases of infectious disease will shortly be increased by 26 beds. In addition to cases of ordinary infectious diseases it was found possible to admit cases of other diseases during the year, e.g. Whooping Cough, measles, and glandular fever.

**Bacteriological Examinations.**—Throat swabs are examined at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory or at the Laboratory of the Joint Hospital Board. Other examinations are made at the Manchester Laboratory.

Specimens examined in 1937:—

- 164 throat and nose swabs.
- 1 blood for typhoid fever.
- 2 sputa for tuberculosis.
- 4 Water (bact'l and chemical).

## Tuberculosis.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1.....	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2
5.....	1	1	2	3	—	—	—	—
10.....	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
15.....	3	1	2	1	—	1	—	—
20.....	5	2	—	1	3	5	—	1
25.....	8	5	1	1	4	3	1	—
35.....	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	—
45.....	5	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
55.....	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards:	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals .....	25	15	9	10	11	11	2	3
	40		19		22		5	

#### Deaths from Tuberculosis ( all forms ) :—

1927 .....	41	1932 .....	37
1928 .....	36	1933 .....	36
1929 .....	39	1934 .....	16
1930 .....	26	1935 .....	29
1931 .....	28	1936 .....	25
	1937 .....	27	

The ratio of non-notified to total deaths was 1 to 30.

The explanation usually given of the omission to notify was forgetfulness, or failure to diagnose until the patient was dying.





## G.—Maternity and Child Welfare.

The staff engaged in this service consists of an Assistant Medical Officer of Health, who is also Assistant School Medical Officer, and five Health Visitors, who are also School Nurses.

### Statistics for the Year 1937.

#### *Births.*

Registered	(1) Legitimate:	(2) Illegitimate:	(3) Total:
(a) Live	627	32	659
(b) Still,	28	1	29

#### Notified within

36 hours (1) Live births, 627 (2) Still births, 26. Total, 653.  
of birth (1) By Midwives, 630. (2) By parents and doctors 23.

#### *Infant Deaths.*

Number ..... (1) Legitimate, 41. (2) Illegitimate, 3. (3) Total, 44.  
Rate per 1,000 { (1) Legitimate, 65. (2) Illegitimate, 93. Total, 66.  
births .....

*Maternal Deaths.*—Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:—

(a) From Sepsis.....	.....	3
(b) Other Causes	.....	1

*Midwifery.*—In 669 cases investigated:—

Attended by Doctor.....	.....	188
„ „ Trained Midwife	449	
„ „ Untrained „	.....	12
Born before arrival of attendant	20	

*Health Visitors.*—Visits paid during the year:—

To Expectant Mothers .....(1) First Visits, 157; (2) Total Visits, 486.  
To Infants under 1 .....(1) First Visits, 653; (2) Total Visits 3701  
To Children 1—5 (1) Total Visits, 5965.  
Other M. and C.W. Visits 65.

Municipal Centres and Clinics.

	Average Attendance per Session.		Numbers who attended for the First Time.	
	Expectant Mothers	Children	Expectant Mothers	Children
Centres:				
Thurnham House ( 1 ) .....	—	80	—	321
Thurnham House ( 2 ) .....	—	71	—	259
Skerton .....	—	70	—	244
Ante-Natal Clinics .....				
Thurnham House .....	11	—	202	—
Ryelands House .....	7	—	97	—

Infectious Diseases.

	Number of Cases Notified	Number of Cases Visited	Number of Cases Nursed	Number removed to Hosp'l
Opthalmia Neonatorum .....	2	2	2	—
Puerperal Fever .....	1	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	16	4	1	12
★Measles and German Measles	—	36	—	—
★Whooping Cough .....	—	173	1	—
★Epidemic Diarrhoea .....	—	—	—	—

★—Not Notifiable.

**Notification of Births.**—Eighteen cases were not notified within 36 hours as required by the Act. In each case of failure to notify, the parent was asked to explain the omission.

**Unqualified Midwifery.**—The number of confinements at which the attendant was not either a doctor or *trained* midwife was 12.

**Lying-in Beds.**—There were 194 Lancaster births in the Infirmary, 4 in the Public Assistance Institution, and 13 in Private Maternity Homes.

**Stillbirths.**—There were 29 still born babies registered during the year, of whom 26 were notified.

**Infantile Mortality.**—There were 44 deaths under one year. This is equal to a rate of 66 per 1,000 births, an increase of 5 on the rate for 1936.

Fifteen of the 44 deaths occurred during the first week, six of them being attributed to premature birth.

**Maternal Mortality.**—The deaths of four mothers were connected with childbirth, three of them being due to sepsis.

Enquiry into these deaths was made by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

**Ante Natal Clinics.**—The opening of a second ante-natal clinic (at Ryelands House) led to an expansion of the work, the number of women who attended for the first time increasing from 242 in the previous year to 299 in 1937. Seven of the 299 were single women, and 292 were married.

Multiparae numbered 216, and primiparae 83. Ninety six women were referred by health Visitors, seventy-seven by Midwives, and one hundred and twenty-six attended of their own accord or on the advice of friends. By arrangement with the local Nursing Society—fifteen expectant mothers were provided with free midwifery attendance, and twenty four were attended at reduced fees, the payments made to the society by the women amounting to £13 13s. 6d. (This arrangement, which has worked well for many years is no longer necessary, owing to the coming into operation of the Midwives Act of 1936). One hundred and three women were found to be in urgent need of dental treatment. Sixty-one of these were necessitous and were offered free treatment at the Dental Clinic, but 25 refused the offer. In two cases blood was examined for the wasserman reaction, with a positive result in one case. Five smears were taken and examined with negative results. Twenty-three women were referred to the maternity ward of the local Infirmary, of whom



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thirteen were referred directly, Public Assistance Institution, and one (Wasserman positive) was admitted to the Preston Royal Infirmary.

**Orthopaedic After Care Centre.**—Five new cases of Children under school age, with non-tubercular deformities, attended the Centre for the first time. Two of these were suffering from rickets, and three children were admitted from the Centre to the Ethel Hedley Hospital, Windermere, for in-patient treatment.

Six examinations were made at the After Care Centre of the five new cases, and fourteen re-examinations of nine old cases.

**Assisted Milk Supply.**—4,836 lbs of dried milk were sold at cost price, 909 lbs at half cost, and 11,640 lbs were given free, in accordance with the scale based on family income.

Twenty-one children under school age were treated at the *Minor Ailments Clinic*, ninety-six at the *Dental Clinic*, and eleven were referred to the Infirmary for the removal of *Tonsils and Adenoids*.

Fourteen cases of *Inflammation of the Eye* in the new-born were investigated at the request of the County Medical Officer of Health.

**Squint in Children under 5 years.**—Seventeen children were examined by Dr. Sykes, who prescribed spectacles in 14 cases.

### **The Port of Lancaster.**

My report as Medical Officer of Health of the Port of Lancaster having already been forwarded to the Ministry of Health, it will be sufficient to state here that nothing eventful occurred during the year.

Three hundred and twenty-four vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 34,689, entered the Port in 1937.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.  
1931—1937

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1931	123	19	11	76	22	3	1	8
1932	70	70	5	61	20	4	3	7
1933	65	164	3	67	17	5	2	7
1934	191	61	2	55	22	3	—	6
1935	320	130	6	69	28	2	—	6
1936	182	116	1	53	24	—	2	1
1937	166	55	3	76	41	2	1	16

# BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Total Population		Annual Death Rate per 1000 Population								Rate per 1000 Births		
			All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-Pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under Two Years)	Total Deaths Under One Year
	Live Births	Still Births											
England and Wales .....	14·9	0·60	12·4	0·00	.....	0·02	0·01	0·04	0·07	0·45	0·54	5·8	58
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London .....	14·9	0·67	12·5	0·01	.....	0·03	0·01	0·04	0·08	0·39	0·45	7·9	62
148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	15·3	0·64	11·9	0·00	.....	0·02	0·01	0·03	0·05	0·42	0·42	3·2	55
London .....	13·3	0·54	12·3	0·00	.....	0·01	0·01	0·06	0·05	0·38	0·51	12·0	60
LANCASTER.....	13·9	0·61	12·5	0·00	.....	0·02	0·02	0·17	0·06	0·48	0·47	4·55	66

## Water Analysis.

### *Bacteriological Examinations.*

( 1 ) Unfiltered water, Langthwaite Filter House ( 7th April 1937 ).

Aerobic micro-organisms growing in yeastrel agar				No. of Colonies. per c.c of water
In 3 days at 22° C.	.....	.....	.....	61
In 2 days at 37° C.	.....	.....	.....	16
Bacteria associated with sewage or faecal pollution:				Quantity of water in which these bacteria were found not found
Bacterium coli.....	.....	50 c.c.	10 c.c.	
Probable number of Coli- aero- genes bacteria per 100 c.c. of water .....				3

( 2 ) Filtered water, Langthwaite Filter House ( 7th April, 1937 )

Micro-organisms in 3 days at 22° C.—5 Colonies per c.c.

Micro-organisms in 2 days at 37° C.—1 Colony per c.c.

B. Coli was not found in 100 c.c.

( 3 ) House-tap, Supplied from Langthwaite Filter House ( 8th Dec. '37 )

Micro-organisms in 3 days at 22° C.—31 Colonies per c.c.

Micro-organisms in 2 days at 37° C.— 5 Colonies per c.c.

B. coli was not found in 100 c.c.

( 4 ) House-tap, Supplied from Scotforth Filter House ( 8th Dec. '37 ).

Micro-organisms in 3 days at 22° C.—72 Colonies per c.c.

Micro-organisms in 2 days at 37° C.— 2 Colonies per c.c.

B. Coli found in 50 c.c., but not in 10 c.c.

### Chemical Examinations.

Numerical results expressed in parts per 100,000.

( 1 ) Filtered water, Langthwaite Filter House ( 7th April, 1937 ).



Colour—Blue.      Turbidity—None.      Smell—None.

Oxygen absorbed.....	..... 0.038	Hardness	{ Temporary	1.5
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	( Clark's	{ Permanent	2.1
Albuminoid Ammonia	..... 0.066	method )	{ Total	..... 3.6
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	..... Nil.	Reaction, pH	.....	..... 8.0.
Nitric Nitrogen	..... 0.054	Action on lead (24 hours)	.....	0.32
Chlorides.....	..... 1.3	Metals	.....	..... Nil.

( 2 ) House-tap, supplied from Langthwaite Filter House(7th Apl. '37).

Colour—Blue.      Turbidity—None.      Smell—None.

Oxygen absorbed.....	..... 0.035	Hardness	{ Temporary	1.5
Free & Saline Ammonia.....	0.0014	( Clark's	{ Permanent	2.1
Albuminoid Ammonia	..... 0.0100	method )	{ Total	..... 3.6
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	..... Nil.	Reaction, pH	.....	..... 8.0
Nitric Nitrogen	..... 0.048	Action on Lead	.....	..... 0.17
Chlorides.....	..... 1.3	Metals	.....	..... Nil.

( 3 ) House tap, supplied from Scotforth Filter House(8th Dec.1937).

Colour—Pale Yellow      Turbidity—None      Smell—None

Oxygen absorbed.....	..... 0.083	Hardness	{ Temporary	1.4
Free & Saline Ammonia	0.0014	( Clarke's	{ Permanent	1.6
Albuminoid Ammonia	..... 0.0046	method )	{ Total	..... 3.0
Nitrous Nitrogen.....	..... Nil	Reaction, pH	.....	..... 7.0-7.5
Nitric Nitrogen	..... 0.021	Action on Lead	.....	..... 0.15
Chlorides.....	..... 1.3	Metals	.....	..... Nil.





